



September 2005

## Singletrack Mountain Biking Takes a Giant Leap Forward in Tennessee

### First- of- its- kind agreement

Chattanooga, TN (July 17th, 2005) – This summer, the Chattanooga Chapter of the Southern Off Road Bicycle Association (SORBA Chattanooga) entered into an unprecedented agreement with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The agreement assures public access to approximately 4,000 acres of TVA- owned woodlands overlooking the spectacular Tennessee River Gorge and surrounding the agency's Raccoon Mt. Pumped Storage Facility. Just 15 minutes west of downtown Chattanooga, the Raccoon Mt. trail system will offer everyone access to up to 20 miles of quality singletrack trail for mountain biking and hiking. Public access to the area was previously restricted to a paved 4- mile loop road. SORBA Chattanooga volunteers have already begun work on the trail system, in accordance with TVA guidelines and using standards adopted from the International Mountain Biking Association.



Photo courtesy Jeff Duncan

This first- of- its- kind agreement with TVA was the result of extensive discussions and negotiations over the past year. The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program was instrumental in facilitating the partnership between SORBA and TVA and continues to provide technical assistance on trail layout and development. RTCA will continue to provide planning support to SORBA Chattanooga and its "Singletrack Minds" initiative, a five- year effort to develop 100- miles of singletrack in and around Chattanooga. For more information, please contact Jeff Duncan at [jeff\\_duncan@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_duncan@nps.gov) or 423- 266- 1150.

## A View of the River for the Whole Community

Surplus river access site becomes community waterfront park



Photo courtesy Union County

Morganfield, KY (July 7, 2005) – The National Park Service Federal Lands to Parks program transferred the Caseyville Access Site to Union County, Kentucky, at no cost, for their community riverfront park. This 10.99- acre property provides a scenic vista of the Ohio River as well as a boat launch and open space. Formerly acquired and developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for boating access, the property will be operated as a community riverfront park and will be further developed with picnic tables and shelters. Valued at an estimated \$950,000, the property is significant because it provides Union County with its first boating access site. NPS Federal Lands to Parks staff negotiated the

transfer. For more information, please contact Bill Huie, Federal Lands to Parks Program Manager, at [bill\\_huie@nps.gov](mailto:bill_huie@nps.gov) or 404- 562- 3175.

## A True Neighborhood Effort

New river access park in Colorado River corridor



Photo courtesy Kathryn Nichols

Austin, TX (July 30, 2005) – Hundreds of neighbors, river enthusiasts, and dignitaries turned out to celebrate the opening of the Colorado River Park in Austin's Colony subdivision. The 9- acre park provides new public access to the river along the 60- mile stretch between Austin and Bastrop, the study area of the Austin- Bastrop River Corridor Partnership. The subdivision developer, Harris Baker, and the City of Austin collaborated on the riverfront park which will be managed by Austin Colony's Homeowners Association until the area becomes incorporated into the Austin city limits.

The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program has been assisting the Austin- Bastrop River Corridor Partnership (ACBRP), a diverse group representing government, conservation, business, and citizen interests, including the partners from the Austin Colony park. RTCA helped conduct two community workshops to develop a vision for the corridor and identify actions to protect natural and cultural resources, improve recreation opportunities, and promote sustainable economic development in the corridor. This new river park is the first of several new access sites being planned and created with the assistance of the ABRCP and RTCA staff along this stretch of the Colorado River. For more information, please contact Kathryn Nichols, Community Planner, at [kathryn\\_nichols@nps.gov](mailto:kathryn_nichols@nps.gov) or 512- 916- 5161.

## The Newest Jewel in Cleveland's Emerald Necklace

Cleveland Metroparks new reservation is an island of green

Cleveland, OH (August 2005) - Cleveland Metroparks signed a lease with the City of Parma allowing the creation of the 300+ acre West Creek Reservation (nature and recreation reserve), the newest jewel as part of Cleveland's Emerald Necklace. The West Creek Reservation results from the tireless work of several citizens groups, including the West Creek Preservation Committee, over the past few years to protect West Creek and connect this riparian area to the Cuyahoga River and the Ohio & Erie National Heritage CanalWay. West Creek is the 16th reservation in the Cleveland Metropark system and includes restored wetlands, stream corridor, and greenways as well as a bike path linking Parma and several other communities to the region's trail network. The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program worked early on with citizens interested in West Creek and provided technical assistance in creating a focused organization to carry on the project as well as a NPS Challenge Cost Share grant to print informational materials. For more information, please contact Paul Labovitz, Program Leader/RTCA Midwest Region at [paul\\_labovitz@nps.gov](mailto:paul_labovitz@nps.gov) or 330- 657- 2950.



Photo courtesy West Creek Preservation Committee